

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated May 16, 2005, claims 2, 22, 23, 24 and 26 are amended, and claims 11-20, 25 and 28-31 are canceled. Claims 1-10, 21-24, 26 and 27 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 2 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In support of this position, the Examiner identifies phrases that are confusing. By this response, claims 2 and 22 are amended to address the noted points of indefiniteness. Specifically, claims 2 and 22 are amended to recite the invention with the degree of precision and particularity required by the statute. Therefore, it is respectfully urged that the rejection be withdrawn.

As claims 2 and 22 are not otherwise rejected, claims 2 and 22, as amended, are believed to be allowable.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 23, 24, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yahav et al. (USPN 6,091,905) in view of Sato et al. (USPN 4,678,323).

The indication that claims 1, 3-9 and 21 are allowable, and that claims 10, 25 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

By this response, independent claim 23 is amended to include the limitation of claim 25, now cancelled, independent claim 26 is amended to include the limitation of claim 28, now

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cancelled, and claims 29-31 are cancelled. Consequently, claims 10, 23, 24, 26 and 27, as amended, are believed to be allowable.

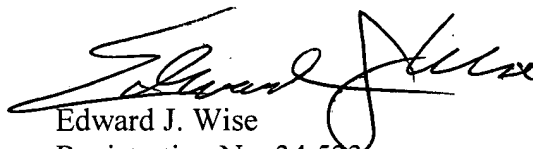
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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